

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

OPERATED BY MARTIN MARIETTA ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX X
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37831

June 19, 1986

Mr. T. F. McCraw
Radiological Controls Division
Office of Nuclear Safety
U. S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20545

Dear Mr. McCraw:

I talked to Dr. Iranzo today concerning his progress report. As you know he has been extremely busy with all of the activities and political fallout related to the twentieth anniversary of the January, 1966 accident at Palomares involving nuclear weapons. Dr. Iranzo informed me that the report is still in the office of the Director General of the Junta de Energia Nuclear (JEN). We discussed his budget needs for 1987 and 1988. As you know Dr. Iranzo has been very straightforward with us in his planning and budgeting activities. Last year (starting February 1, 1985) his budget was \$260K, and he requested \$240K for the current year (starting February 1, 1986). He estimates the annual budget for the year starting on February 1, 1987 and February 1, 1988 to be \$300K and \$330K respectively.

The requested increases are related to plans to resume extensive field measurements at Palomares (which were reduced because of recent demands on JEN staff related to the concerns about Palomares including those associated with the alleged withdrawal of U.S. support after 20 years) and an increase in the number of Palomares residents taken to the JEN in Madrid for measurements.

Inflation is significantly higher in Spain than in the U.S. requiring additional funding just to maintain the same level of work. Thus, most of the planned increase from 1986 to 1987, and virtually all the planned increase from 1987 to 1988, will be consumed by inflation.

I am concerned that the 1986 budget was abruptly reduced to \$140K without discussion with JEN authorities. I hope you are successful in restoring the \$100K required to bring the total amount back to the requested level of \$240K. As you know from the October 1985 meeting in Los Alamos, my advisory group strongly supports the quality of the work done by Dr. Iranzo and his colleagues in this most important area of investigation. I believe the studies are approaching the most critical years as regards funding requirements, and I believe it is premature to reduce the level of support. It is also important to realize the proposed \$140K of support for this year covers a period of time that began five months ago. Because I was unaware of the reduction until yesterday, there have been no discussions concerning this proposed action with Dr. Iranzo, and I am sure the reduction will have very serious impacts on the program.

As you know there were many questions raised earlier this year about the U.S. Department of Energy's intent to continue funding of the work at the JEN. I, and others, have assured Dr. Iranzo that it was not

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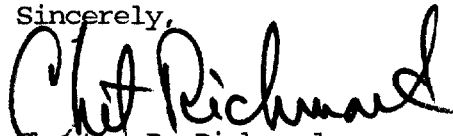
the intent of the Department of Energy to terminate funding on the twentieth anniversary of the 1966 accident at Palomares. No one, to my knowledge, informed Dr. Iranzo that there would be a significant reduction in funding beginning in February of this year. I sincerely hope that Dr. Iranzo does not think that we have been less than candid with him. I will communicate this information to him immediately.

Incidentally, I am reviewing the paper Dr. Iranzo has prepared for publication in Health Physics. He has incorporated the technical reviewers comments, and I am now looking at it for grammatical structure, etc. They have done an excellent job.

Again, I appreciate your interest in this activity and hope that you can restore the proposed reduction in funds. Please let me know if there is anything I can do.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chet Richmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chet" being more prominent.

Chester R. Richmond

Associate Laboratory Director for
Biomedical and Environmental Sciences

CRR:kd

cc: E. J. Vallario